









"We're very preoccupied and worried that unemployment is going to rise sharply. Is the EI change sufficient...?" Liberals' Michael Ignatieff



"In today's budget, he prioritized \$60 billion in corporate tax cuts and only \$1.15 billion for the unemployed." NDP's Jack Layton



# Budget bleeds red

## Tories project deficits until 2013 to blunt recession

The Conservatives delivered a fixer-upper budget meant to rebuild the economy and get Canadians working, pumping \$40 billion over two years into everything from income tax cuts and help for home renovations to increased jobless benefits and cash for urban reconstruction.

Canadians will find out today if the • Harper's cut to the Goods earned eral Liberals.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff offered a mixed review but said he would announce this morning whether to vote down the budget — and defeat Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority government.

He said the budget's bigticket spending and new assistance for the jobless was a "positive" response to "the combined pressure of the opposition parties," which threatened to topple the government.

But the Liberal leader questioned whether Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has done enough to improve employment insurance (EI) benefits and whether funds for infrastructure will flow quickly.

The Conservatives boast the budget, aimed at reducing the impact of a

growing global recession, will create or maintain close to 190,000 jobs. Taxpayers, low-income families and laid-off workers all stand to benefit in the plan that spreads tax breaks, cash support and incentives across every sector of society and business.

"We will start construc-

tion of roads, bridges, pub-Cuts in hindsight transit, broadband In-Conservatives' and Services Tax from seven ternet access, economic safe- to six per cent, then to five schools ty net has per cent has been projected social housing the to cost the federal coffers in every resupport of fed- about \$12 billion in 2009-10. gion of the country," Fla-

herty said. But the Tories are forecasting a \$34-billion deficit in the next fiscal year and deficits totalling almost \$85 billion over five years. Not until 2013 does the budget forecast a surplus.

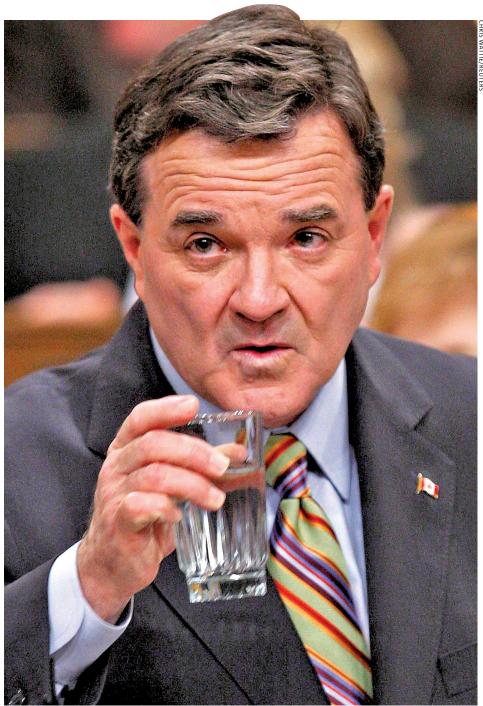
Flaherty defended the "temporary" deficit spending, calling it "necessary to stimulate our economy."

Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe and NDP Leader Jack Layton quickly criticized the budget.

Layton said it is Ignatieff's responsibility to defeat the budget as it fails to meet the tests the Liberal leader set.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Finance Minister Jim Flaherty pauses as he delivers his budget in the House of Commons in Ottawa yesterday. The Conservatives' budget will run a deficit of \$34 billion in the next fiscal year.

#### **Budget Highlights**

- Cut personal taxes by \$20 billion over six years, including raising the upper limit of the two lowest personal income-tax brackets.
- Cut business taxes by \$2 billion over six years.
- \$7.8 billion for social housing and private home renovation, including a one-year **Home Renovation Tax Credit** of up to \$1,350 per household.
- \$12 billion (\$7 billion in new cash) for infrastructure, including \$1 billion for "green" infrastructure, and \$1 billion for clean-energy research.
- \$2.7 billion in short-term
- loans to the auto industry. A two-year, \$1-billion Community Adjustment Fund to help communities adjust to economic hardship.
- More than \$1.4 billion for aboriginal schools, health, water, housing, community services and training.
- \$8.3 billion for skills and training.
- Extend EI benefits by five weeks for two years.
- More than \$1.4 billion for aboriginal schools, health, water, housing, community services and training.

#### Canada 2009 Federal Budget

sees little help pg 2 Ignatieff to decide Tories', coalition's fate pg 4 Green plan panned pg 5 Kate MacNamara on follow ing Bob the Builder pg 6 Business groups applaud pg 7

Two charged in pharmacy robberies

Thanks to tips from the public, police have laid charges against two people in connection with 11 recent pharmacy robberies in Calgary. Dawn Farkas, 26, and Robert Gauthier, 33, both from Cochrane, have been charged with robbery and possession of a controlled substance. METRO CALGARY

# Local



### Romantic dinner at the zoo

The Calgary Zoo is heating things up on Feb. 13 and 14 with a candlelight dinner served in the conservatory, followed by a steamy little talk about everything you wanted to know about animals and their dirty little secrets. Limited tickets available; call Estelle at 403-232-9362 for more information.

METRO CALGARY

# Not much for families: Dad

**Calgary small business** owner, proud husband and father of two Mike April watched yesterday's budget and said as far as his family goes, there wasn't a lot that he could see directly benefiting them — aside from the tax cuts.

According to Dean Paley, tax professional for Edward Jones Canada, the Aprils will see that tax relief to the tune of about \$350 per year, having a two-income household nearing the \$150,000income mark.

Paley said the Aprils will continue to realize good tax and retirement benefits in the future as long as they continue to contribute regularly to RRSPs and their children's education.

Where Mike April could realize even more benefit,



The April family (from left): Jenna, 14, dad Mike, mom April and Jordi, 12.

according to Paley, is on the small business side.

As a small business owner, April may benefit from the temporary increase in the capital cost allowance for computers and the increase in the income eligible for small business tax

rates — which went to \$500,000 from \$400,000, Paley said.

In addition, should April wish to expand, the maximum loans under the Canada small business financing program have been increased.

#### Canada 2009 **Federal Budget**

With an active family, April appreciates fitness credits for the kids - but would have loved to have seen something for middleaged Canadians in the same regard. He did hope that some of the \$500 million allotted for recreation repair would head to Calgary, since he's had to head out of town with his son, Jordi, just to get ice time before.

"There are a few other rinks that are in really bad shape. If they don't get money injected into them, they'll just have to close their doors. I think if anything it'll keep them open."

METRO CALGARY

# 🌞 Reaction across the Country 🖐

#### Ottawa — Student

A student at the University of Ottawa, Adrianne Walton, 31, said she wanted to see more money for universities.

Ian Lee, MBA director for the Sprott School of Business at Carleton University, said there was \$2 billion for the renewal and refurbishment of buildings at universities and colleges across Canada in the budget.

#### Toronto — Single income

A young family with only one full-time income, the Melvilles say they weren't expecting much on a personal level from the federal budget.

The most significant detail in the budget for the Melvilles was the home renovation tax credit, which they said they'll make good use of.

#### Edmonton — Single parent

For single father Warren Dahlen, the promise of \$12 billion for infrastructure is good news for the 40-year-old electrician, whose employment is only secured by new construction.

#### Halifax — Senior citizen

Marilyn Peers saw some new money for seniors in the federal budget, but the 77-year-old Halifax resident hoped for more.

#### Vancouver — Same-sex

Karen Chan, 29, and Amy Romanas, 35, were married last January and are filing their tax returns together for the first time.

They will save \$1,100 in taxes this year thanks to the tax relief announced yesterday.

#### One victim dies in basement fire

**TRAGEDY** One of the victims of a fire that tore through a northwest basement suite Monday has died.

Friends of Jonathan St. Pierre, 19, said he died at the Foothills Hospital last night after suffering severe smoke inhalation.

Four unconscious victims, including St. Pierre's girlfriend Tiffany Cox, were pulled from the suite in the 500 block of 33rd Street NW.

ALICIA FOX/FOR METRO CALGARY

# Bronconnier pleased with federal budget

#### Canada 2009

#### **Federal** Budget

FUNDS Mayor Dave Bronconnier had a smile on his face yesterday as he expressed an overall positive reaction to the Tory government's federal budget.

Though he would have liked to see money go to find more police officers, he said, "Overall, given some of the unknowns,

it's very positive news towards infrastructure upgrades."

He said they are "all good initiatives," and was happy to hear that money was made available for recreation upgrades, which he said could translate to just less than \$20 Dave million in Calgary, Bronconnier all of which will be put to good use.



from the provincial government as well as the city," he said. Alberta's finance minister believes the federal budget has made has made some strides in

helping the province weather through an "It will help kick-start economic drought, but admitted she's still looking through the details for fairness.

(it's) good "Overall. news," said Finance Minister Iris Evans in a media scrum yesterday.

"When you have infrastructure funding and transportation funding that puts people to work, and here in Alberta we've got some roads that can use that ... that's a help." Definitely,

**METRO CALGARY** 

### metr@news.ca WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

**Budget** Full coverage of the federal budget, including opposition reaction, highlights and hits and misses at metronews.ca/canada

Video High-tech running injury clinic takes a three-dimensional approach at

metronews.ca/local **Blogs** Famous People Are Weird on Madonna's newest disguise at metronews.ca



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metro

The Freethought Association of Canada is targeting Calgary for its next round of advertising intended to promote atheism, CBC News Online reports. The ads would carry a simple message: There's probably no God; now stop worrying and enjoy your life. The group is currently waiting for approval to put its ads on buses in Toronto. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Canada/World



Four people were arrested yesterday as 200 members of CUPE and their supporters rallied in downtown Toronto. The rally was to protest back-to-work legislation proposed by the Ontario government as it attempts to intervene in a strike at York University.

# Strike takes ugly turn

Protesters clash with police outside Ontario legislature

legislation continued for the third day at the Ontario legislature yesterday, four protesters were arrested while they made their way from the **Ministry of Labour offices** to the legislature.

The two men and two women were arrested after an officer contacted his dispatcher to say "he needed assistance," said Toron-

**News** in brief

tegrity of creation in the

METRO NEWS SERVICES

**As debate on back-to-work** to police Const. Tony Vella, a media spokesperson. Bystanders who witnessed the protest also contacted police to say an officer needed help, Vella added.

Charges include assaulting police officers and obstructing police, according to Vella. "Four officers sustained minor injuries," he

CUPE President Sid Ryan said that if back-to-work

legislation passes today or tomorrow, CUPE may be forced to launch a court action on the basis that it violates the Canadian Charter of Rights and Free-

"If we pursue it, the strike will be prolonged," Ryan told a news conference at Queen's Park yesterday. "We don't want to go down that road."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Icebreaker gets stuck freeing ship

ALBERTA The rapid-fire develop-QUEBEC It wasn't something they had expected, getting ment of Alberta's oilsands region has garnered a new critic stuck in the thick ice of the St. Lawrence River. Neither — Luc Bouchard, bishop of the did the guests aboard the Vadiocese of St. Paul, which covers nearly 156,000 square kilomecancier cruise ship expect the Canadian Coast Guard tres of Alberta. The bishop said icebreaker that came to get in a letter this week that "the inthem out would suffer the Athabasca oilsands is clearly be same fate. ing sacrificed for economic

But the icebreaker Terry Fox, considered one of Canada's two "heavy" icebreakers, did get caught in the ice leading some to wonder whether the coast guard has adequate icebreaking capabilities.

A coast guard communications officer denied the Terry Fox got stuck. "It just had difficulty to move in the ice," she said. "There is a differ-TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# World exhaling sigh of relief, Clinton says

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton suggested yesterday the world was breathing a sigh of relief that President Barack Obama had replaced George W. Bush and was working to fix the damage he had caused.

In her first news conference as top U.S. diplomat, Clinton said excitement over the change in power was "reinforced time and time again" during recent welcome calls with foreign counterparts.

"There is a great exhala-

tion of breath going on in the world as people express their appreciation for the new direction that's being set and the team that is put together by the president," Clinton said.

"We have a lot of damage to repair."

Many Arab and European allies opposed the Bush administration's invasion of Iraq and its human rights record, including treatment of terror suspects. Generally, world leaders have praised Obama's election but analysts

#### **Position on Israel**

• Clinton said yesterday she believes Israel had a right to defend itself, and that Palestinian rocket attacks from Gaza on the Jewish state could not go unanswered.

say his honeymoon could be short-lived as he tries to grapple with the global economic crunch, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Arab-Israeli conflict and other challenges. REUTERS

# Israeli planes strike Gaza border tunnels: Officials

STRIKES Israeli aircraft struck at tunnels used for smuggling goods and weapons on the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt yesterday, residents of the Gaza town of Rafah Hamas officials said.

Rafah residents began to flee homes in panic as the aircraft struck three times before dawn, Hamas officials said. There was no initial word of any casualties.

The strike came as an apparent response to an ealier attack by Gaza militants on an Israeli military vehicle hit by a roadside bomb, killing one soldier and injuring three.

An air strike later killed one Palestinian, but Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said that it was only an initial reaction and that Israel's full response was still to come. REUTERS

#### 25 bodies found in Madagascar department store

**ANTANANARIVO** Firefighters found 25 charred bodies in a looted department store in Madagascar's capital yesterday, a day after the worst anti-government violence in years.

On Monday, tens of thousands of people took to the streets in protests against the president that became violent. A teenager and a police officer were killed. REUTERS

#### **News** in brief

**BULGARIA** An armed man surrendered to police after hijacking a bus and holding 37 people aboard hostage for two hours in Bulgaria yesterday. The 33-year-old man, who offi-

cials said had mental health problems, had forced the bus driver to stop at a gas station. **OCTUPLETS** A California woman shocked doctors by giving birth on Monday to octuplets, believed to be only the second set of eight babies born successfully in the U.S. The six boys and two girls were doing well and were in stable condition, doctors said. REUTERS



Massage Therapy 🛩 | Medical Office Administrator 🖈 | Retail Pharmacy Technician 🥪 🖈 | Medical Administrative Assistant 🥪 Network and Internet Security Specialist 🥪 | Help Desk Support Analyst 🥪 TECHNOLOGY Paralegal ★ | Business Administration E-Commerce Management ★ | **BUSINESS** Accounting and Payroll Administrator 🕪 🕏 | Professional Legal Assistant 🥪 | Oil & Gas Administrative Assistant  $\checkmark\!\!\!/$  | Hospitality  $\not\sim$  | Travel and Tourism 🛩 | Business Administration Management 🛩 🕏

- Financial Aid Available to Qualified Applicants
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- 7 **High Graduate Employment Rates**
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Not All Programs Available







canada

A national deficit occurs when a government's annual expenditures exceed its revenues. The national debt is the accumulation that remains unpaid from all past annual deficits since 1867. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# **Federal** Budget 2009

## **Big spenders**

Pierre Trudeau and Brian Mulroney both spent Canada deeper and deeper into debt during the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s. Trudeau failed to balance the books for 15 years as prime minister. Mulroney never managed to pro-

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE** 

Deficit vs. debt

# Tories await their fate El benefits extended

NDP, Bloc immediately condemn budget; Liberal decision today

The fate of the **Conservative government** lies with Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff, who says he is concerned the Harper government has underestimated the economic crisis.

Ignatieff, who met with his Liberal caucus last night, was to announce today whether his party would support the government's economic plan, or possibly join with the NDP and the Bloc Québécois to defeat the Conservatives in the Commons.

There was talk among some Liberals last night about possibly proposing an amendment to the budget to address some of the party's concerns.

New Democrat Leader Jack Layton and Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe swiftly condemned the budget as a failed "ideological" document that does not address the needs of the jobless and the most vulnerable, nor move Canada toward a greener economy.

Their parties intend to vote to defeat the government on the budget, and Layton publicly pressured Ignatieff to do the same.

Layton said the budget fails on the very tests helping the most vulnerable, protecting the jobs of today and creating jobs for tomorrow — that Ignatieff had set out.

"He has a choice to make," Layton told reporters. "It's either to prop up the Harper government and allow it to continue in a fashion that is clearly wrong-headed, or to pursue



Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe, left, talks with New Democratic Party Leader Jack Layton yesterday in the foyer of the House of Commons on Parliament Hill after listening to the budget speech.

"He has a choice to make. It's either to prop up the Harper government and allow it to continue in a fashion that is clearly wrong-headed, or to pursue the agenda laid out by the coalition, which would create jobs for the future and would transform our economy and would really protect the people who are suffering the most from the economic crisis."

NDP Leader Jack Layton on Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff

coalition, which would create jobs for the future and would transform our econo-

the people who are suffering the most from the economic crisis."

the agreement signed by the Liberals and NDP in December to form a coalition, place the Conservative gov-

Ignatieff, however, said yesterday the Conservative budget contained "some positive elements" that he credited to the political pressure brought to bear by the united opposition parties before Christmas.

He said there are also "negative aspects."

> TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE **MORE ON IGNATIEFF'S DECISION, PAGE 5**

#### Layton was referring to the agenda laid out by the my and would really protect supported by the Bloc, to re-Many wild cards in play for future of the economy

The federal budget is a "prudent" prescription to help heal Canada's ailing economy, but the modest stimulus spending and tax cuts alone may not be enough to pull Canada out of its deepening recession, economists said yesterday.

Dubbing the budget "Canada's economic action plan," Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said the measures were aimed at resuscitating consumer spending and

### Savings to trickle down

· Economists said the permanent nature of tax breaks would help those savings trickle down

into the real economy, contrasting them with the temporary tax rebates doled out to Americans last year. Lower-income Canadians, they say, have a greater propensity to consume.

protecting increasingly vulnerable jobs amid a worsening global recession.

Flaherty said measures to shore up the sputtering economy must begin within the next 120 days to be

effective. Overall, the government hopes its action plan will create or preserve up to 190,000 jobs for Canadians by the end of 2010.

Private sector econo-

mists, however, stressed the outlook for the global economy remains clouded. There are many wild cards, including the future direction of commodity prices and the timing of any eventual economic recovery in the United States — not to mention the future health of Canada's own housing and stock markets.

Since the global economic meltdown was originally sparked by events outside this country's borders, the government's 'made-in-Canada" solution is unlikely to be a cure-all for the domestic economic funk.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# five weeks

Ottawa's plan to extend employment insurance by five weeks is better than nothing, say some workers

Losses

• With recent

job losses top-

ping 100,000

and the threat

of another

250,000 Cana-

dians being

thrown out of

work in the

coming year,

jor El reforms

is the budget's

biggest weak-

Armine Yal-

ness,

economist

left-leaning

Alternatives.

struggling with job loss and an uncertain future.

But for those ΕI whose has already run out, yesterday's federal budget offered little the lack of macomfort.

Economists. labour groups and business leaders had nizyan of the also called on Ottawa Canadian Cento end re- tre for Policy gional inequities in the system

that make it easier for the unemployed in some parts of the country to qualify than in others.

They note that reforms during the 1990s to limit access and benefits to employment insurance have resulted in a program that covers barely half of unemployed workers in Canada today. Torstar News Service

## More to be taken off tax rolls

**RELIEF** In a something-foreveryone budget, the Conservative government has proposed widespread tax relief for small businesses, homeowners, seniors, and low- and middle-income Canadians.

The budget calls for tax measures that will leave more money in more people's pockets, including the sprawling middle class, whose support the Conservatives covet.

The moves will take an additional 265,000 Canadians off the tax rolls altogether, largely through changes to the basic personal income tax exemption and to the seniors' age credit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# **Federal Budget 2009**

# It's not easy being green

# Critics pan largest environmental stimulus in Canadian history

It was the largest green stimulus in Canadian history, according to the federal **Environment minister, but** elements of the budget plan that use the environment to revamp the economy fell short of many expectations.

Yesterday's budget contained more than \$3 billion to develop clean technologies, build environmentallysustainable infrastructure and improve energy efficiency in homes.

"The provisions in the budget relating to the environment are very significant," Environment Minister Jim Prentice told Torstar News Service. "When you add all this up, it's certainly the largest green stimulus that we've ever seen."

But critics say the federal government's plans fall far short of national public transit and other infrastructure needs while spending too much taxpayers' money in Alberta's oilsands and not enough on renewable energy.

There were at least two mentions of carbon capture



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, left, shakes hands with Prime Minister Stephen Harper yesterday after delivering the federal budget in the House of Commons.

and storage projects that store greenhouse gas emissions underground in a section of the budget that outlines the five-year, \$1-billion clean energy fund, noted

Stephen Gilbeault of Green-

The government also earmarked \$292 million to help develop the CANDU nuclear reactor and operate the Chalk River facility.

The new clean energy fund is "an excellent start," but it is important to rapidly increase funding for renewable energy projects, both to keep up with the pace that is being set in Washington by U.S. President Barack Obama and to help emerging Canadian companies stay competitive, said Vicky Sharpe, president and chief executive of Sustainable Development Technology Can-

Obama has vowed to double energy production from renewable sources in three years as part of his stimulus package.

"We're either going to be technology takers or makers, and so if we're going to see an upswing in support for clean technology development in the U.S. then I think we need to be matching that," Sharpe said.

The government wants 90 per cent of energy from clean sources by 2020, a goal that is dependent on shutting down Ontario's coal-fired electricity plants and switching to hydro, nuclear and natural gas as power sources, Prentice said. Wind and solar power can also play a smaller role, he added.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Then & now Jim Flaherty on the **Economy**

#### Oct. 7, 2008:

"We had a surplus in the first quarter of this year ... which is, in fact, ahead of track on our budget assumptions. So I'm quite comfortable that we're on track, in fact, a little bit better than on track, for this fiscal year."

#### Oct. 24, 2008

"I can assure you that we remain on track for a balanced budget this fiscal year with a modest surplus by the end of the fiscal year."

#### Oct. 27, 2008:

"Canada will be the envy of other industrialized nations."

#### Nov. 13, 2008

"We won't take steps that will hurt the real economy just for the sake of having a small surplus."

#### Dec. 11, 2008

"It's quite clear on the basis of the forecasts and the continuing declines in the forecast that there will be a deficit."

#### Dec. 12, 2008

"We are living in extraordinary times ... Panicking and making the wrong choices would be devastating for the Canadian economy."

#### Jan. 21, 2009

"We will not create a permanent, long-term deficit for Canada ... In our economic plan, we will show how we will exit from deficit as the economy exits from recession."

#### Jan. 27, 2009

"As the economy recovers, we fully expect to emerge from deficit and return to surplus within five years ... While our projections are based on the best information available, we cannot quarantee them absolutely."

Tories boost spending for less fortunate

**PRESSURE** The Conservative government was under more political pressure than usual to boost social spending as the would-be coalition was on the lookout for whether it would help those that the economic crisis has left most vulnerable.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty set the tone by making it clear the budget yesterday was not one for a time of prosperity, but one that would do what it could to keep the economy moving while protecting its citizens from the worst effects of the slowdown.

"We will need to spend more to protect our economy and help Canadians hit hardest by the global recession," Flaherty said in his speech in the House of Commons yesterday.

Nicholas Gazzard, executive director of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada, said he believes the political crisis had something to do with the social spending included in the budget yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

#### It's your move, Iggy

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff laid out three tests to determine whether his party will support the budget. Here are the tests and some budget offerings that might satisfy his

demands: **Protect the vulnerable** Extension of employment insurance bene-

fits by five weeks for the next two years. · Extension of protections to safeguard severance and termination pay for workers hit by company bankruptcies.

Greater tax relief from the working income tax benefit to encourage low-income Canadians to find and keep jobs.

 Up to \$150 in tax savings for lowand middle-income seniors through an increase in age credit amount. • \$1 billion for renovating social hous-

#### Protect the jobs of today

• \$12 billion over two years for new infrastructure spending.

• \$7.8 billion in tax relief and funding to stimulate the housing sector and improve housing.

• \$170 million toward a "more sus-



tainable and competitive" forestry sector.

\$55 million over two years to help young

Canadians find summer jobs, giving them valu-

**Create jobs for tomorrow** 

#### **News** in brief

**RENOVATIONS** The Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC) is designed to get Canadians spending now to help create jobs in industries typically

hurt by an economic downturn. Effective today through Jan. 31, 2010, homeowners can claim a tax credit for 15 per cent of renovation

expenses between \$1,000 and \$10,000. The maximum tax credit (on \$9,000 in renovations) is worth \$1,350.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

quickly enough.

TORSTAR

SERVICE

## Steps added to prop up lending

**CREDIT** The federal government is bolstering efforts to keep credit flowing in Canada — its starkest acknowledgement to date that consumers and businesses are being increasingly squeezed by the global credit crunch.

The measures, announced in yesterday's federal budget strengthen Ottawa's previous actions to prop up lending by improving access to financing for both households and businesses. Officials said the Extraordinary Financing Framework would provide up to \$200 billion to fill gaps in credit markets.

The government is not only fortifying existing programs, it is taking a fresh stab at stemming the crisis through a slew of new actions. Some observers said that the bold approach signals that Canada's credit predicament is now worse than originally imagined.

The \$200-billion price tag is a combination of past programs and new endeavours.

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# Comment & Views

Comment

# Building in Bob's name

# Can we fix it? How about can we afford it?



n spite of the \$40-billion stimulus package he brought down yesterday, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is not the man of the hour.

Neither is Opposition leader Michael Ignatieff, on whose shoulders the fate of this borrowed stimulus now rests. Nope.

It isn't even U.S. President Barack Obama as he leans on Washington lawmakers to pass his trilliondollar spending plan.

The man who defines our time is Bob the Builder, the children's cartoon character.

Governments across the Western world, and now including our own, have stolen the little fella's Building houses, roads, bridges, schools, you get the idea.

The Conservatives says

they're putting shovels and hammers to work across the country, in order to make work, and lift a flagging economy.

All told, new federal infrastructure spending will top \$11 billion.

Mr. Flaherty even filched the little guy's tradesman look when he donned steel-toed boots to fulfil the tradition of launching budget in a pair of new shoes. In fact, the only

thing Mr. Flaherty didn't rip off was Bob's slogan: Can

fix To which his crew of animated bulldoz-

ers responds ... Yes we can. Mr. Obama already filched it for his presidential campaign

Canada 2009 **Federal Budget** 

But all of this "shovel ready" business isn't the only expensive measure in this budget.

There are several billion dolfor relars training the unemployed. **Billions** more in tax credits

> everything from home renos to comput-

There are income tax reductions and help for small businesses.

Aimed at the very special of special interests is the money to increase slaughter-

house square-footage, and the help for lumber mills to expand their sales in

There are also more sensible measures to help thaw tightening credit.

For example, there is more than \$60 billion available to buy loans from the balance sheets of banks and other lenders.

That might not have much curb appeal, but it may just mean cheaper and more ready mortgages and car loans for con-

Canada is well positioned in the face of a looming recession.

We are returning to deficit spending after 12 years of surpluses.

But Mr. Flaherty said yesterday he doesn't expect the government to return to balanced budgets until 2013.

The interceding years, he estimated, would heap a further \$85 billlion on the national debt.

That leaves the question Bob's pint-sized audience can afford to ignore — can we afford it?

Kate MacNamara is a business reporter for CBC radio. She lives in Bragg Creek, Alta.



## Quote of the Day

"My concerns about the budget are have they underestimated the seriousness of the crisis? If they make that judgment wrong, pretty well everything goes south, including their deficit projections."

— Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff

#### Word on the street: Was this a good budget?

#### **Angela** Leggett

Age: 35 Toronto

We just moved into a new house, so that tax credit (home renovations) will allow me to spend a bit more money.

#### **Billy** O'Neill

Age: 34 Toronto

A: The budget fails to address the shortfalls in the employment insurance program. The temporary extension of five weeks is

#### Melinda Ainsworth -Roy

Age: 26 Ottawa A: I'm generally suspicious of the Conservatives ... but from what I've seen so far, it looks hopeful.

#### Christy McGoldrick

Age: 29 Ottawa

A: They really packed a lot of spending and tax cuts into one budget. I like that there was \$12 billion for repairs to roads,

#### **Michael Davis**

Age: 35 Calgary

A: It would have been good if the government gave more money for would-be entrepreneurs because I think that's another good op-

#### **Kaley** Kennedy

Federation of Students, Nova

Scotia

A: We didn't see anything that's going to reduce student debt or reduce tuition fees.

### Chris **Atkinson**

Age: 23 Calgary

A: The tax cuts that have been proposed will be a large benefit to lower- and middle-income families.

# **McKetiak**

Corinne

Age: 21 Calgary

A: I was kind of worried would have fancy fixes for everything ... it seems smart to give back to people so that they can

#### Robertson Vancouver

Mayor

Gregor

A: We were really hoping for social-housing investment to deal with our homeless crisis here.



It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: calgaryletters@metronews.ca Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Ex-IBM exec heads to Apple after legal battle

A lawsuit involving proprietary- and confidential-information protection that barred former IBM executive Mark Papermaster from joining Apple has been resolved. REUTERS

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# Business EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA **Inflation risk small: Carney**

**PAUL MCLEOD** Metro Canada

Canada got some good economic news for a change yesterday at a speech in Halifax.

Mark Carney, governor of the Bank of Canada, told the Halifax Chamber of Commerce that the country will likely avoid massive inflation.

Carney said Canada's banking system is strong and the Bank of Canada has room to manoeuvre on controlling inflation.

"The bank began cut-

"Canada faces those challenges (of the financial crisis) from a position of strength."

Mark Carney

ting interest rates sooner — and has cut deeper than most other central banks. With the usual lag, these moves will have a powerful impact on economic activity and inflation."

Carney's outlook was downright rosy by recent

standards. He expects the economy to begin recovering later this year. While he conceded Canada's GDP will drop a projected 1.2 per cent in 2009, he expects a 3.8 per cent rebound in 2010.

In the meantime, Carney said the central bank would use its powers to keep inflation at two per cent per year.

"While the current financial crisis presents challenges for policy-makers and citizens alike, Canada faces those challenges from a position of strength," said Carney.

## Ottawa cuts tax, boosts credit access

#### Canada 2009 Federal **Budget**

**BUDGET** Business groups applauded measures in the proposed federal budget to increase access to credit and cut taxes.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty pledged to make up to \$200 billion in liquidity and financing available to Canadian businesses through a variety of government measures.

Under the plan, Ottawa would provide businesses with access to additional financing of \$13 billion through financial Crown corporations.

Agencies such as the Export Development Corp. and the Business Development Bank of Canada would have greater lending powers.

A portion of these funds, about \$5 billion, will be provided through the new business credit availability program.

The government also plans to increase the maximum eligible loan amount a small business can access under the Canada small business financing program for loans made after March 31. The current limit will be raised to \$350,000 from \$250,000 and to \$500,000 for loans made for acquiring prop-

The government said these changes are expected to result in more than \$300 million in additional lending. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Spain Santander sued



Women walk past a Santander bank branch in central Madrid yesterday. Spain's Santander and its private banking business Optimal are being sued in Florida for losses suffered by customers with investments in products hit by the Madoff scandal, Spanish lawyers said.

#### **Business** in brief

PAY A group of workers laid off by Nortel Networks Corp. has asked the company to restore the severance payouts it has suspended as it restructures.

**EARNINGS** Grocer Metro Inc. reported a higher-than-expected quarterly profit of \$81.1 million, up from \$73.8 million a year earlier.

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Voice Mail, Call Waiting ... and much more



Major League Soccer isn't prepared to wave goodbye to David Beckham just yet, but would be willing to discuss the future of the former English captain with Italian club AC Milan, commissioner Don Garber said in Ottawa yesterday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Sports

## **Heat forces Djokovic out**

during his Australian Open quarter-final match against Andy Roddick yesterday. The third-ranked Serb looked increasingly woozy and had to give up while trailing 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-2, 2-1, allowing Roddick to claim a spot in the semifinals against Roger Federer.

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

#### **SCOREBOARD**

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS Buffalo 10 Edmonton 2 Minnesota 6 Toronto 1 New Jersey 4 Ottawa 1

Boston 3 Washington 2 (OT) Columbus 3 Detroit 2 (OT)
Dallas 2 Atlanta 0 Florida 3 Philadelphia 2 N.Y. Rangers 3 Carolina 2 San Jose 3 Colorado 0

TONIGHT'S GAMES Buffalo at **CALGARY** N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh Chicago at Anaheim Nashville at Vancouver

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# A Steeler cakewalk?

# On paper, the Super Bowl looks like a mismatch

# Super Bowl **XLIII**

am a football addict and have not missed a Super Bowl game. Never. I have, I confess, witnessed every single second of all 42 Super Bowls whether as a tot in my par-

York **Report** 

marty.york@metronews.ca

Martv

York

family ents' room, at friends' parties, in the stands of the stadiums

where some of the games were played, working in the press box at several, in a rowdy estab-

lishment slouching over a table with beer, or alone with popcorn in the privacy of my den.

And, naturally, I'll watch the 43rd Super Bowl somewhere this Sunday, when the Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals clash hel-

I'm not especially jazzed up about this one, however, and I know I'm not alone.

Last year in Arizona, when the heavily favoured New

England Patriots were supposed to shred the New York Giants in the 42nd Super Bowl, scalpers exploited overwhelming fan interest and sold tickets for more than \$10,000 apiece. This week, I'm told, you can buy the finest Super Bowl seat in the house in Tampa Bay for less than \$3,000.

The recession is partly reunquestionably, sponsible,

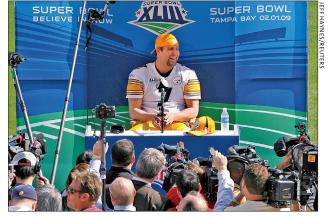
> but there's general apathy, too, as many football fanatics fear a major mismatch.

> Oh, I know that's what folks said last year, before

the Pats and the Giants met. New England, though, created a buzz because of the undefeated/historical season it aimed to record. And then the Giants went and upset them. And, sure, the Cards could defy logic as sevenpoint underdogs and could pull off another miracle Sun-

They could, but they won't. Consider:

• Team histories: Pittsburgh has a rich, winning tradition and can garner a



Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger answers questions during Super Bowl media day in Tampa yesterday.

record sixth Super Bowl victory Sunday. "I knew when I got drafted I'd be in the playoff hunt every year," Pittsburgh defensive end Brett Keisel said. "We ooze success." Arizona, meanwhile, has never been in a Super Bowl and has qualified for the playoffs only three times since 1976.

• Defences: No Super Bowl team had permitted more than 360 points in a season until these Cards, who coughed up 426. Pittsburgh gave up 223 points and led the NFL in fewest yards allowed.

• Regular-season scores: The most points Pittsburgh

surrendered in a game this season were 21 — in a 26-21 triumph. Arizona was beaten twice by 21 points, once by 28 and once by 40. No previous Super Bowl team lost a game by 21 or more points in the regular schedule.

You get the picture. This could be one of those not-soclassic Super Bowl routs.

Like: Pittsburgh 28, Arizona 9.

Yep, that bad. Regardless, I'll watch every second. Don't plan to snap my streak just yet.

> Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaste in Canada for decades.

## NHL Rough night for Leafs rookie



Minnesota Wild teammates celebrate after scoring on Toronto Maple Leafs rookie goaltender Justin Pogge last night. Minnesota hammered Toronto by a score of 6-1.

#### **Even split on** fighting issue

**NHL** A slight majority of Canadians believe NHL hockey fights should be banished for good, according to a new Canadian Press-Harris-Decima poll.

A survey conducted during NHL all-star weekend shows that 54 per cent of respondents think fighting should be eliminated. The poll suggests only 40 per cent of Canadians believe fighting should continue to be allowed.

Quebecers — at 62 per cent — oppose fighting far more than residents of any other region in Canada.

Still, 68 per cent of hardcore NHL fans who follow the league closely say the gloves should continue to drop.

The NHL plans to officially examine the role of fighting in the league during the GMs' meeting in March.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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# Metro Drive

## **Taking Dakar on diesel**

Volkswagen has become the first automobile manufacturer to win the Dakar Rally with a diesel-powered vehicle, with its Race Touareg TDIs taking first and second place, Canadian Driver reports. The prestigious endurance race took place in Argentina and Chile. **METRO MEWS SERVICES** 

FDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR SAHA@MFTRONEWS.CA

# Think beyond family car Canadian, American inspirations behind Toyota Venza

JIM ROBINSON for Metro Canada

#### Toyota calls the 2009 Venza the most North American car it has ever built.

And in the next breath officials also call it one of the most important cars in the company's history.

Well, when you already have Corolla, Camry and Matrix, then a lot has to be riding on this next vehicle.

At the launch of the 2009 Venza in the hills of Pennsylvania, Toyota opened the presentation by declaring the Venza as a whole new kind of family car that isn't really a family car. It's hard to put a label on Venza. It blurs the line between station wagon, crossover and luxury car. About the closest thing to it in concept is the Mercedes-Benz R-Class. With a price said to start at under \$30,000, I guess you could think of it as R-Class light.

This is the first Toyota vehicle specifically aimed at North Americans, designed in California and built in Kentucky. Canadians were the inspiration for the side rocker panels that are covered by the door panel to keep out slush and snow. Because the rockers are at nearly the level of the floor, there is no step over to get in. So when you get in and out in the winter, and your pant legs brush the sill, they won't get wet or muddy.



Toyota says the 2009 Venza will be available with a four-cylinder or V6 engine and front- or all-wheel-drive starting at "under \$30,000."

With a length of 4.8 m, the wheelbase is a full 2,775 mm larger, which makes for sizeable passenger volume. To lower the roof as

much as possible while retaining enough headroom for stadium-style second row seating, Toyota stylists came up with the clever

idea of minimizing gaps.

The bonus is Venza looks very slick. By adding in 19and 20-inch alloy wheels on the four-cylinder and V6

models respectively, the Venza comes across as a concept car that made it to the street. The interior is out-

standing in its little de-

tails. There is a power point on the transmission wall with a cubbie just below for the front passenger. The 60/40 rear seat has a onetouch fold-down lever.

Fuel numbers for the four-cylinder FWD are 10.0/6.8/8.5L/100 km city/highway/combined respectively. For the AWD, they are: 10.2/7.1/8.8L/100 km. For the V6 FWD/AWD



These are the centre stack controls for the 2009 Venza. Note the cupholder that slides back and forward.

they are 11.0/7.6/9.5L/100 km and 11.5/7.9/9.9L/100 km city/highway/combined.

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1 Accident	\$1,849	\$3,753	\$1,904						

as a key factor in determining the rates charged. Another major factor is your individual profile, which is made up of things like your residence or city, your age, the type of car, number of claims and tickets and annual mileage driven.

The combination of these and other factors determines what insurance rate or premium is charged.

The key is to figure out which insurance company can offer you the best rate based on all factors. Chances are you are not currently insured with the company that offers the best rate for your driving profile. But finding the best rate on your own can be time consuming. This is where InsuranceHotline.com

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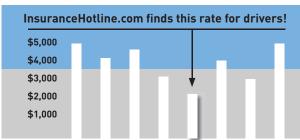
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Top presidential retreats

AskMen.com's list of the top 10 U.S. presidential retreats is, unsurprisingly, led by Camp David in Maryland and the Kennedy Compound in Massachusetts; other spots include the Little White House in Key West, Fla.; Lyndon Johnson's Texas ranch; and the Reagan family's Rancho del Cielo near Santa Barbara, Calif. REUTERS

# Travel



## Family ski deal

Fairmont Hot Springs Resort in Fairmont, B.C. has launched a Family Learn to Ski Package that combines ski lessons, a snowshoe chocolate fondue, soaking in its natural mineral hot springs and more. The package is suited to a family of four (two adults and two youth or children) that's new to skiing or boarding and wants to enjoy a worry-free learning experience.

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# A world of cruise options awaits

ROMINA Mc GUINNESS Metro World News

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10

If you still think cruises are all about retired couples and shuffleboard, you're hopelessly out of date. Today, cruise-goers can pick from a seemingly endless array of routes, dazzling ships and themes. Here are just a few notable options:

#### **Pure Fantasy**

Point of Anchor: MSC Cruises; The Fantasia, Genoa, Italy: Recently launched by Italian movie star Sofia Loren, the Fantasia is the Paris Hilton of cruise ships; showy, glitzy and yet utterly glamorous. You should barely notice the 4,000-passenger capacity thanks to intimate

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Above left, the Dahabeya Hadeel sails the River Nile. Above right, the Queen Mary 2, left, the world's largest and most expensive luxury liner, sails near its namesake ship, the Queen Mary, for the first time in February 2006 at Long Beach, Calif. The original Queen Mary, launched in 1934, has been permanently moored since 1967.

yacht-like atmosphere. Leave your kids in the North Pole-themed playroom while you pamper yourself in the spa — the

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Q-Frequency machine that promises to wipe out cellulite, fat deposits and stretch marks.

Rock your boat: For a hefty upcharge per week, you'll get the key to one of the 99 restricted VIP suites of the MSC yacht club. Order chilled Dom Perignon champagne from your personal butler and walk down the Swarovski crystal-studded corridors to one of the secluded hot tubs or private lounges.

**All aboard:** The Fantasia seven-day Mediterranean cruise leaves from the Italian port town of Genoa, stopping off the shores of Sicily, Tunisia, Spain and France.

**Info:** mscfantasia.com

#### **Around the world**

Point of Anchor: Cunard Cruises; The Queen Mary 2, New York: One of the last remaining old-school cruise liners is the lavishly built Queen Mary 2. You and the other 2,620 passengers will embark on a 106-day cruise around the world. Over the course of the journey, you'll visit more than 15 maiden ports, anchoring off the shores of China or disembarking to sand-surf over the golden dunes of Dubai. You can also do a spot of surfing in Honolulu or haggle for jewelery in the bustling souk of Oman.

Rock your boat: The QM2 is a floating homage to its predecessor, the elegant QM1 cruise liner (which also carried troops throughout the Second World War). Drift back to another era as you enter the Grand Lobby, home of the largest ballroom floor at sea or by attending a performance at the Royal Court Theatre, whose shows rival ones in London's West End.

**All aboard:** World Cruise from Jan. 12 to Apr. 29, 2010.

Info: cunard.com

### Diamond in the Sea

Point of Anchor: Fashion

TV: The F-Diamond: Join the fashionistas on board Fashion TV's new 140-metre yacht, the F-Diamond, which can cater to parties of up to 1,000. It's not quite a front-row seat at a Chanel haute, couture show, but more of an excuse to gawp at scantilyclad catwalk models and not feel too bad about it. Hosting crazy fashion parties (which can be filmed for a post-party review) and skimpy bikini-shows, this is a cruise suited for people with a bit of a wild streak. Dance the night away on the upper deck, but save some adrenalin for the casino.

**Rock your boat:** Up to 50 international models compete onboard to become Miss FTV, and passengers can form part of the judging panel. Take it or leave it — this may be a one in a lifetime chance to be stranded in the middle of the ocean surrounded by 50 models.

All aboard: The F-TV cruise

yacht makes interval stops at selected Mediterranean ports.

**Info:** ftv.com

#### **Eager for Egypt**

Point of Anchor: Right Travel, Dahabeya Hadeel, Nile River, Egypt: Sail the turquoise waters of the River Nile on board the Dahabeya Hadeel. Discover the rich cultural heritage of Egypt whilst taking time to relax on the sailboat. Over the course of eight days, you'll see many of Egypt's most spectacular sights, including the Philae Temple, the Colossi of Memnom and the city of Edfu, where you'll see the Temple of Horus.

Rock your boat: All these historical facts and sights may enrich your cultural knowledge, but at the end of the day, nothing really beats a bit of mindless fun. Hop off the sailboat and onto a camel or donkey when you stop off in El Kab one Egypt's oldest cities.

**Info:** right-travel.com



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# Has she met her match?

A traveller who makes a point of eating local delicacies may have finally found her limit



alut is a nutrientrich snack, an exotic delicacy and a challenge that unsettle could even the most daring of Fear Factor contestants.

It's a dish widely enjoyed in the Philippines and other parts of South East Asia and at first glance, it seems a lot like a hard-boiled egg. The only difference is that when you inspect the contents, you find the yolk is actually an 18-day-old fertilized duck embryo.

Balut has been described as a snack that's as common in Filipino culture as hot dogs are in the U.S. It's most commonly eaten in the early evening with lots of salt and a nice cold beer.

On the streets of Manila, you'll find vendors on every corner selling warm eggs to hungry passersby. Just crack the egg open, peel the shell and add a pinch of sodium. Some eat the snack with a fork, though the usual way to scarf it down is with your bare hands.

Balut is valued as a good calcium hit, a cheap source of protein and a potent aphrodisiac. Countless people also love the taste, but to the uninitiated, the experience can seem not so much gourmet as just plain

The U.S.-based satirical



Andy Concio, owner of a balut factory just outside of Manila, poses with bottles of preserved balut.

**Word Travels** 

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writers Julia Dimon and

Robin Esrock. It airs Sundays

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repeat at 9:30 p.m.

site Cracked.com voted balut one of the "most terrifying foods in the world," and relates that balut is enjoyed in Cambodia, the Philippines and the fifth and seventh levels of hell.

When travelling, I like to keep an open mind and eat as the locals do, even if that means taking culinary challenges to the extreme. So I head to Pateros — a district 20 minutes outside of central Manila that's known as the balut capital of the Philippines — to try the thing for myself.

I visit a locally owned balut factowhere they process about

80,000 eggs a week. Half are sold as balut and the other half as salted eggs.

The owner, Andy Concio, takes me through the factory and explains that thousands of eggs are incubated in wooden chambers and heated at just the right temperature. The process of fertilization is regularly monitored using a device that looks like a pinhole camera.

He puts an egg under the light of a naked bulb and inspects it carefully. "The sloshing shape around in the egg means the embryo is forming," he says. "If the light doesn't show the veiny liquid, the egg is infertile and cannot be used for balut."

Concio claims to be the first to preserve the product and export it as a nonperishable food item. His main customers are Filipino migrant workers living and working in Dubai, but his base is growing.

He plans to ship the product to the U.S., making it available to millions of South Asian ex-pats who miss their salty snack.

So what balut does taste like? I at an pick eggshell, then take a shot of the fluid inside. The liquid is warm and tastes like green tea. But the rest of the

contents aren't so soothing. They remind me of dry, mealy turkey, the sort been that's hanging around much too long after Thanksgiving dinner.

I'm happy I tried balut and plan to keep sampling local dishes wherever I go - but I still feel a bit tongue-traumatized. And I may never be able to look at an egg the same way again.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 6:30 p.m. on OLN; juliadimon.c

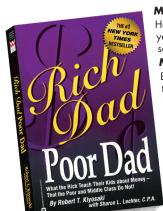
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#### McCartney to headline yogic flying benefit

Paul McCartney is going to headline a concert to raise money for yogic flying. Film director David Lynch is organizing the benefit in New York on April 4 — which will also star Moby, Sheryl Crow, and Eddie Vedder — and is determined to raise money to teach the technique to school children. FEMALETFIRST.CO.UK

# Entertainment

### **New Heights**

Jennifer Lopez is reported to be starring in a Broadway musical. The singer-and-actress is considering a role in the New York theatre production of In the Heights. FEMALETFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN, LISK @METRONEWS.CA

# Milk among GLAAD nominees

AWARDS Best picture Oscar nominee Milk picked up another award nod yesterday as the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation announced nominations for its 20th annual GLAAD Media Awards.

Milk, from Focus
Features, the specialty division of Universal Pictures,
was included in GLAAD's
outstanding film in wide release category. It will compete with Miramax's
Brideshead Revisited,
Columbia's Nick and
Norah's Infinite Playlist,
Warner Bros.' RocknRolla
and the Weinstein Co.'s
Vicky Cristina Barcelona.

REUTERS

# Runway blunder

RAFAEL BRUSILOW for Metro Canada

Camille Prins went on Project Runway Canada to follow her design dreams, but a frumpy camouflage dress got her sent home in this season's first episode.

On the season premiere last night, designers were tasked with creating a winning dress — using camouflage material — to be displayed in the Canadian War Museum.

Prins, a 28-year-old Toronto native, tried to capture the spirit of a jungle vixen with her dress but the judges felt it just made the model look dirty and unkempt. One judge said it was actually painful to look at, sealing Prins' fate.

On the show, Prins said her most powerful asset was her positivity and she remains true to form despite being ousted. "The show was actually a really fun, positive experience. I feel like it has already opened a lot of doors."

Prins had only kind words for the other designers and says most of them bonded because of similar goals and personalities.

Previously, two contestants voluntarily withdrew from the competition in dramatic exits due to health issues. Jaclyn Murray, 26, from Winnipeg, Man., suffered an anxiety attack during the first challenge and had to be hospitalized, choosing to withdraw shortly thereafter.

Danio Frangella, 33, from LaSalle, Ont., left the show after developing painful skin ulcers, a side-effect from a bout with cancer.

For Prins, the experience of being on the show was a lot tamer and a lot less intimidating than she had expected.

"I expected it to be a hundred times crazier. Even when I was sleeping I was expecting a camera crew to rush in. But you're too busy to even notice that the cameras are there," she said.

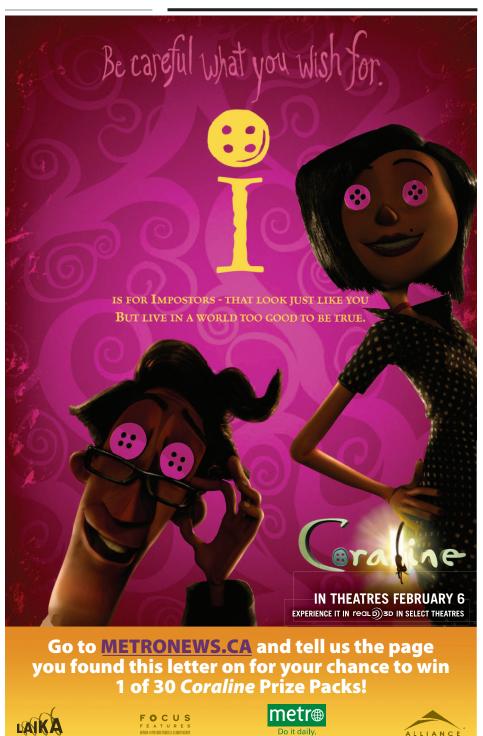


Camille Prins, right, was sent home on Project Runway Canada last night. The Judges didn't like her camouflage dress, left.

Prins says she has wanted to be involved with the show since the first season, so being on the show was a dream come true.

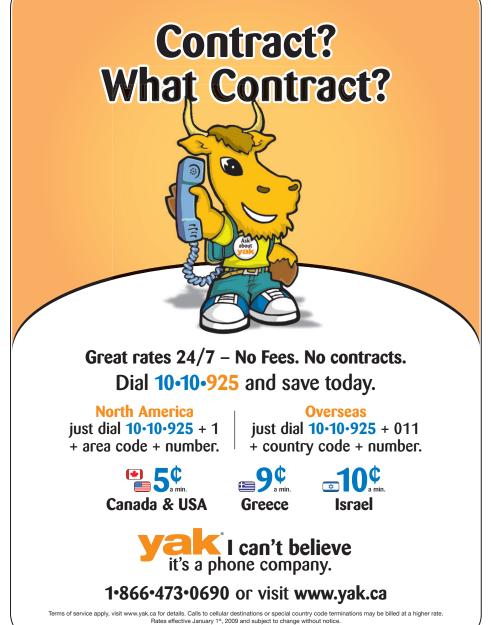
Now that she's off the show Prins will go back to running her Dutch Blonde women's clothing line (dutchblonde.ca) and she hopes to branch out into menswear and children's apparel soon.

While Prins' experience on Project Runway Canada was a positive one, she says it's hard not to feel disappointed. "I was really looking forward to doing some more of the challenges just to push myself to see what I could do."



No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, excluding residents of Quebec. Contest closes January, 30th 2009.

Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. Winners will be required to answer a skill testing question. For full contest rules and details, visit www.metronews.ca



#### Dancing shoes

Donny Osmond let it slip that he will appear on Dancing with the Stars during a recent taping of The Bonnie Hunt Show. PEOPLE.COM



# entertainment 13

# The next generation of TV viewers: Old people

**IntelleVision** 



**TIME TO PANIC:** We've passed the midpoint of the traditional TV season, and while the networks can conceal their growing anxibehind the smokescreen of economic bad news, the fact is that things haven't gone well, and now is the last moment for fixing it.

As long as the 18-49 demographic is still considered a mix of the football the cheerleading squad and the rich kid who lets you drive his BMW, there's no consolation to be had from news that three of the four U.S. networks have lost a considerable chunk of these viewers — a 12-per-cent drop from last year's numbers for ABC and NBC, and 14 per cent loss for Fox, according to a New York Times story.

Only CBS is weathering to demographic exodus,

**REMAKE** The saga of Bonnie

and Clyde is headed for anoth-

er film telling, with Hilary Duff

negotiations to play the infa-

**REDUX** ABC is flashing the V

1980s miniseries about an

Security agent.

sign. The network has ordered

a pilot for a reimagining of the

alien invasion. The new V will

centre on a female Homeland

REUTERS

mous 1930s bank robbers.

In **brief** 

and Kevin Zegers in

#### gaining in overall audience teams with a proven track and only losing 3 per cent of the 18-49ers, but it has to be remembered that CBS home of procedurals like Cold Case, Without a Trace, NCIS and the CSI franchise, reality stalwarts Survivor, Big Brother and The Amazing Race and top sitcom Two And A Half Men — is

generally considered the

house network for the Ro-

gaine generation. No one who knows the difference between The Shins and The Mars Volta watches CBS to begin with, and if youngsters keep abandoning the networks, we may finally see the emergence of a new consensus among marketing types that young people probably the most likely to see their disposable income evaporate if the economic downturn continues aren't the holy grail of audiences anymore.

It may already be happening. The Times piece notes that network strategies aren't looking that audacious production record are behind many of the new shows, many of which are spin-offs or forays into safe genres like procedurals.

CBS is preparing a spinoff of NCIS, NBC has put Greg Daniels and Michael Schur of The Office in charge of Amy Poehler's new sitcom, and is filling ER's soon-to-be-vacant slot with Southland, a cop show set in L.A., at least until Jay Leno can take over the space next season.

A few of you might already have noticed that ads for adult incontinence pads and cures for male urinary irregularities have migrated from cable and late night to prime time. Look for more of the same, until the day when some network realizes that enough of their viewers have memory issues for them to just run the same episode of CSI every night.

Rick McGinnis writes about music,

### **ABC launches** comedy lineup

**NETWORK** ABC has announced the creation of a Thursday night comedy block and has scheduled airtimes for two of its midseason comedies.

Starting March 26, the network will air single-

mom comedy In the Motherhood on Thursdays at 8 p.m. and move the Christi-

na



**Ugly Betty** 

Applegatestarring sitcom Samantha Who? from Mondays to Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.

The usual occupant of that hour, Ugly Betty, will take a rare hiatus, then will return to the slot later in the season. ABC also has scheduled the office sitcom Better Off Ted, which will air Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. starting March 18, paired in the hour with Scrubs. The Thursday move puts ABC's comedy block head-tohead with NBC's My Name Is Earl and Kath & Kim, which have slipped in the REUTERS ratings.





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Only those chosen for an interview will be contacted.

#### 10:00 10:30 Vu SC 7:00 8:00 9:00 11:00 267 351 - ACCESS Truth, Duty, Valour Lost "Jughead" (N) American Idol (HDTV) (N) 243 317 3 CFCN etalk Metropia Life on Mars The Simpsons King 4 OMNI Two/Half Mer The Simpsons Entertainment The Insider (N) Lost "The Lie 371 5 KXLY 4 News at 6 4 News at 6:30 Lost "Jughead" (N) CBC News: the fifth estate CBC News: The National 245 306 6 CBRT | Coronation St. Jeopardy! (N) The Week the Women Went The Hour 244 338 7 CICT ET Canada Life on Mars (HDTV) (N) House "97 Seconds" Lie to Me (HDTV) (N) News Hou - 8 CKAL Law & Order: SVU Friends I Love Money 119 705 9 CBXFT Virginie (SC) L'Épicerie Les Invincibles (SC) Le Téléjournal et Les Nou TJ Alberta Le Match des étoiles (SC - 10 SHAW (6) Local Programming **Local Programming** Evening News Old Christine Criminal Minds "Lo-I 372 12 KREM | News (N) Hollywood The Doctors (N) 374 14 KSPS NewsHour With Jim Lehrer Black Coffee Pioneers of Television ess of America ( CBC News: The National Jelly Fish Invasion (N) CBC News: The National **CBC News: The National** Jelly Fish 502 390 15 CBC Law & Orde News (N) Jeopardy! (N) Wheel-Fortune Law & Order: SVU - 370 16 KHQ The Simpsons Two/Half Men Two/Half Men American Idol (HDTV) (N) Lie to Me (HDTV) (N 373 22 KAYU PIX News at Ten Tong. Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV) 297 652 37 WPIX 90210 (HDTV) Two/Half Men Friends Sex and-City According-Jim Frasier 500 500 29 CNN Larry King Live Cooper 360 Larry King Live 508 502 31 CNN2 Lou Dobbs Tonight Showbiz Tonight Nancy Grace Lou Dobbs Tonigh Nancy Grace 400 400 21 TSN NHL Hockey Buffalo Sabres at Calgary Flames NHL Hockey SportsCentre 408 418 27 net UFC 74: Respect Couture takes on Gonzaga Hockey Central UFC Primetime 410 403 30 SCORE Women's University Basketball Final Score Final Score Hardcore Hockey Talk 411 457 44 OLN Mantracker **Bounty Hunter** Bounty Hunter Survivorman Mantracker **Bounty Hunter** 417 406 48 SPEED | Pinks (HDTV) NASCAR Pre. Wrecked Wrecked Pass Time Am. Thunder Am. Thunder Pinks (HDTV) Prank Patrol Drake & Josh Adrenaline Proj Prank Patrol Malcolm-Mid. Futurama Adrenaline Falcon Beach 552 543 20 YTV 557 541 39 FAM Zoey 101 Zack & Cody Han. Montana Life Derek Johnny Test Totally Spies 555 545 67 TOON Ben 10 **Total Drama** 6TEEN 6TEEN Misadventures The Critic Hope & Faith 575 583 11 CMT Reba Hope & Faith Three Chords Tara Diaries Home Improve. Home Improve. Reba Miss Spide Go, Diego, Go! 553 546 17 TREE Little Bear Comfy Couch Rolie Polie Olie Max & Ruby Babar Backyardigans Dora-Explorer 18 CHTV | The Insider (N) Fashion Police: SAG Awards E! News Party Monsters: Cabo (N) News (N) 505 398 19 TWN (5) EarthWatch One EarthWatch One EarthWatch Two 602 568 23 W Style by Jury Style by Jury Will & Grace Friends Grocery Bag Grocery Bag How Clean Maxed Out (N) Solved "The Watch Man" 521 560 24 TLC Solved "The Watch Man Extreme Forensics Personal Justice (HDTV) Ext. Forensics Challenge 603 561 25 FOOD Iron Chef America Top Chef Super Bowl cook-off. (N) Dinner Imposs. Iron Chef Am. Bounty Hunter Bounty Hunter 615 520 26 A&E Bounty Hunter Bounty Hunter Parking Wars Parking Wars Parking Wars Parking Wars Bounty Hunter 617 522 32 SHOW Wife Swap The Outer Limits About a Girl About a Girl The Guard "Waheguru" Big Love 601 562 33 SLICE Real Housewives of OC Filthy Rich: Cattle Drive Real Housewives of OC Trading Sp 633 34 ENC2 Spitfire Grill elancev \*\*\* (1988) The American 520 505 35 DISC Deadliest Catch Mayday "Phantom Strike" Dirty Jobs MythBusters Wingfield 620 523 36 BRAVO Wingfield Death at-Opera Broadway Law & Order Without a Trace Rasputin 294 650 40 WPCH (6) Signs (2002) Family Guy Signs ★★★ (2002, Suspense) Steve Harvey Seinfeld Family Guy 626 547 41 COM | Laughs Comedy Now Air Farce Just for Laughs Corner Gas The Simpsons | South Park Jon Dore Show The Prisoner of Second Avenue (1975, Comedy-Drama) The China Syndrome (1979, Suspense) - 539 42 TCM (6) Grumpy Old Men (1993) 628 584 43 SPIKE UFC Unleashed (HDTV) UFC Primetime UFC Primetime UFC Unleashed 522 516 45 HIST Gladiator Graveyard NCIS Cities of the Underworld Gladiator Graveyard NCIS Rabbit Fall 627 528 46 SPACE Star Trek: Voyager Star Trek: Next Gener Rabbit Fall Stargate SG-1 Trek: Voyager - 47 AMC (6) The Ballad of Josie (1968, Wester 619 525 49 TROP What Happen? What Happen? Rawhide ★★★ (1951, Western) Tyrone Power, Hugh Morl Death Wish II \* (1982) Reality Ad Persuasion Family Guy Seinfeld Raymond Family Guy 600 564 50 HGTV Property Virgin Unsellable Hid Potentia Really Big Flip Holmes on Homes Property Virgin Unsellable 501 391 52 CTV CTV Newsnet News **CTV Newsnet** News 504 508 70 BNN Squeeze Play Market Call Market Call Headline Commodities Business News Squeeze Play 526 507 92 VIVA Medium "Coming Soon Psychic Detect Mediums Encounters Judaina Amv Mediums Medium 269 350 93 APTN APTN National News: Contact Extreme Beats Canadian Geographic Wings-Canada Miywayawin Sabor Latino - 94 MCP (6:30) News Matchmaker Mom's-Upset Van. Nights Iranian Pop 571 581 100 MMM Story Of Spice Girls. All-Time Top 10 All-Time 10 Party of Five "Fam-i-ly Revival 570 580 101 MM Degrassi: TNG Degrassi: TNG PunchMuch Video on Trial Video on Trial America's Best Dance Crew disBand After Parent Control Real World The Real World (N) 581 566 102 MTV The Real World MTV Live Next

### critics'corner—

Jeans pockets should hold handkerchiefs, not substitute for them. Tell that to the 23-yearold subject of this new episode.
Using her jeans as tissues is
the least of her hygiene problems; she also still has the glue on her teeth from the braces she ripped off more than a year ago — which is also the last time she wore a clean bra. Kim Woodburn and Aggie MacKenzie swoop in with microbiologist Derren Ready to give this young woman a wake-up call. 10:30 PM on W



## The New Adventures of Old

Christine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) is getting married! Who's the lucky guy? Um, actually it's Barb (Wanda Sykes). She's in danger of being deported to the Bahamas, so Christine, like a good friend, offers to marry her so she can stay. She's not the only one hearing wedding bells, though; Richard (Clark Gregg) has decided to pop the question to New Christine (Emily Rutherfurd) in "A Decent Proposal." 9:30 PM on KREM

# **GlobalStyle** Kenya Hunt metronews.ca/globalstyle



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Spice Girl Geri Halliwell is engaged after a whirlwind romance, People magazine has confirmed. The redheaded Ginger Spice, 36, is set to wed Italian yacht-company owner Fabrizio Politi, 34. PEOPLE.COM

# **Celebrity Buzz**

# Amy to visit prison in bid to keep hubby

is set to visit her husband in prison in a bid to stop him from filing for divorce, femalefirst.co.uk re-

The Rehab singer — who been romantically linked with 21-year-old actor Josh Bowman and a fitness instructor named Andrew while holidaying in St. Lucia — has applied to see Blake Fielder-Civil and is set to return to the U.K. any day to save their marriage.

A friend of the 25-yearold star said that, "Since he began divorce proceedings Amy has decided she wants to try and work things out.

"She has applied to visit

he accepts she will fly back. We will see what his priority is. Amy or her money."

Blake — who is serving a 27-month sentence for perverting the course of justice and grievous bodily harm — is reportedly planning to ask for half of Winehouse's fortune in a divorce settlement.

Despite being photographed frolicking with Josh on her holiday and reports frequently romped, Winehouse has insisted "still loves" Blake.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



# 'Adopt me': Clooney

PEOPLE George Clooney has made an offer few can refuse: He has placed himself adoption, for people.com reports.

"I always wanted to be adopted, but I couldn't find anyone," said the star, speaking at a New-

with his father, former Ohio news anchor Nick Clooney, and veteran journalist Bill Small on either side of him.

seum event in

Washington, D.C.,

"Will you adopt me?" George said to Small. "I'm very wealthy. take care

Talk of adoption started after Nick Clooney's observation that his son's 2005 film, Good Night, and Good Luck, about iconic CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow, is now being shown in journalism schools across the coun-

try.
"This film has legs," said the elder Clooney, who then asked his son for his opinion.

"I don't care for that," said jocular George prompting Nick to respond: "I never cared for this kid — his sister's great." **METRO NEWS** 

SERVICES

the Gold Coast area of New York's Long Island even more fabulous? How about throwing in the use of the property owner's \$90 million luxury yacht? Star Magazine is reporting the Hollywood couple — and their six children

**Angie and Brad** to rent classy \$60

million US estate

**COUPLE** What could make

Pitt's upcoming rental of a

Angelina Jolie and Brad

\$60 million US estate in

Halliwell gets engaged

- will be moving into the Sassafras estate in the exclusive waterfront town of Lloyd Neck, while Angelina begins area filming for the spy thriller Salt in March.

Owned by a billionaire Kuwaiti businessman, one of the 500 wealthiest people in the world, the 48acre estate features a 22,000-square-foot, eightbedroom, 12-bathroom Tudor-style main house, a separate six-bedroom guest house, an 11bedroom staff house, two helipads and a private dock on Long Island Sound.

Bordered by the 1,500acre Caumsett State Park sanctuary, the estate also boasts its own fallout shelter. **METRO NEWS SERVICES** 



**PEOPLE** Lindsay Lohan's shrinking frame has had folks worried lately, as the erratic actress has lost a noticeable amount of weight. But her publicist is working hard to explain all that. "Lindsay is aware that she's lost some weight due to stress," Lohan's rep tells Hollyscoop.

"But we recently did a photo shoot and she ate

No word on what's causing all this stress, but her rocky relationship with



#### Airbrushed teeth in Sienna photo

**VANITY** Airbrushing is nothing new in the fashion industry, but have you heard of someone's teeth needing to be airbrushed? Femalefirst.co.uk is reporting that was the case for Sienna Miller.

The website says a new documentary reveals that when the actress was shot for the cover of American Vogue in 2007 the magazine's editor Anna Wintour voiced her concerns over Sienna's oral health as she had "too many fillings."

Heatworld reports that the airbrushing for this particular cover was so intense that Sienna's head was actually superimposed onto another body.

A spokesperson for Vogue told Heatworld: "While some retouching is a fact for any cover, no one is more convinced of Ms. Miller's beauty than Vogue."

Sienna's publicist added: "Sienna Miller is the first person to admit that her



## Affleck admits he wasn't always lucky in love

**DATING** Ben Affleck was "never very good" at dating, femalefirst.co.uk re-

The 36-year-old actor who had relationships with Gwyneth Paltrow and Jennifer Lopez before marrying Jennifer Garner admits starring in new romantic comedy He's Just Not That Into You was a challenge because he hasn't always been

lucky in love. "You're asking me for dating advice? I can't give any — I was never very good at it, I don't think anyone should follow my advice," he said.

Ben added he enjoyed making the film — which

tells the stories of several young men and women in different stages of relationships — because it reminded him of his life before he was married.

"This film showed me that I'm happy I'm married. But I do like listening to boys when they are dating, and all the actors in

> good. We have all these different archetypes the one who's trying too hard and is a really nice guy but the girl doesn't like him anyway. Then there's player who

the movie are very

takes a girl under wing.' **METRO NEWS** 

# Madonna, A-Rod reunite

PEOPLE Madonna and Yan- East Hampton home, acdriguez reportedly reunited recently in the Hamptons, but the Material Mom was too distracted to really enjoy it. The two spent some



kees slugger Alex Ro- cording to Page Six, but instead of a romantic getaway, Rodriguez got to listen to Madonna fume over leaked, untouched and unflattering photos of her

> from a recent shoot. 'Madonna called up the label screaming when the photos got out," a source said.

> > **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Rourke's Wrestler injuries

PEOPLE Mickey Rourke had to be helped up stairs by his girlfriend after suffering so many injuries from The Wrestler, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 56-year-old actor — who recently wno recently a Golden won Globe Award for his role as Randy (The Ram) Robinson in the movie wasn't prepared for the effects the brutal fighting scenes would have

"I had to try harder to get up in the morning. And because of my extra bulk, a football knee from high school acted up again. Two hundred years later! And my woman had to get behind me and push me up the stairs. I was pathetic looking," he said.

on his body.

So my knees wouldn't hold up, because of all the extra weight and the exercise. And all the injuries you get from being thrown down, you know?"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

#### RELATIONSHIPS Jennifer However when she does Aniston finds dating difficommit, Aniston says loves cult, femalefirst.co.uk to surprise her boyfriends The former Friends with romantic gestures. She added to TV show

**Aniston's dating difficulty** 

star — who is divorced from Brad Pitt and currently in a relationship with

John Mayer — says finding a partner is a struggle, even without the pressures of being famous.

"I think it's just hard to date. It's not like we're kids. We're not dating," she said. "I love dates when you're already with someone."

boyfriend to a hotel for his birthday and brought a massage table and gave him a massage." Unlike Aniston, her He's Just Not That Into You co-star Drew Barrymore currently single but insists she enjoys looking for love. **METRO NEWS** 

Extra that, "Being sur-

prised is good. I took a

SERVICES

### Lohan loses a lot of weight lately

two full meals."

Samantha Ronson can't be helping.





Andrew Schultz, Weather Specialist – Breakfast Television



Friday Partly cloudy

ll shape up with ou



### **Take Five**

#### 12 14 15 16 18 20 21 22 25 26 27 31 32 28 30 35 33 36 37 39 40 44 48 50 52 55 54 56 58 59

#### Sudoku

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		4			3		
	3		4	8		7	
8	9					1	4
		7	9	6	1		
2							3
		6	5	2	7		
1	7					5	2
	5		3	1		9	
		9			4		

#### **Crossword across**

- 1 Light-years away
- 5 Weep loudly
- 8 Vicinity
- 12 Theatre box
- 13 Crony
- 14 Rent
- 15 Lamb and eggplant recipe
- 17 Libertine's feeling
- 18 au poivre
- 19 Explosions
- 21 Pinocchio, notably
- 24 Braying beast 25 George Herman Ruth
- 28 Campus hangout
- 30 Recede
- 34 Fastidious
- 33 Mess up

- 35 Have a bug
- 36 Ostrich's kin
- 37 Right on the map?
- 38 Zealots' group
- 39 "Casablanca" pianist
- 41 Apiece
- 43 Rigatoni and rotini
- 46 5-Down features
- 50 Double Stuf cookie
- 51 Subject of Frederick I
- 54 Pottery oven
- 55 "— Town" 56 Notions holder
- 57 Relaxation
- 58 X rating?
- 59 Nitwit

- 1 Charitable gifts 2 Yard portion
- 3 Chills and fever
- 4 Auction, essentially 5 Masseur's workplace, maybe

**Crossword down** 

- 6 Furniture wood 7 Spill the beans
- 8 Holdup man? 9 Philosopher Jean-Jacques
- 10 Formerly, formerly
- 11 Picnic invaders
- 16 Schuss 20 Gentlewoman
- 22 Blue hue
- 23 Charlotte (dessert)
- 25 Spelling contest 26 Branch

- 27 NATO headquarters site
- 29 "The Thin Man" dog
- 31 Puppeteer Baird
- 32 Sandwich shop order
- 34 Damage assessment org.
- 38 Pursued
- 40 Expiate (for)
- 42 Couric's network
- 43 Prod
- 44 Met melody
- 45 Location
- 47 One of the Jackson 5 48 Truckload
- 49 Fit of peevishness
- 52 Wish otherwise
- 53 Coffee dispenser

#### PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

G	U	L	F		R	Ε	М		М	Α	М	E	1	8	4	5	9	7	3	6	2
Α	G	A	R			R	A		A	М	1	D	_	_	_			_	_		_
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			Ε	Α	Т		D	Τ	С	К	Ε	Υ	7	5	6	3	2	1	4	9	8
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			М	Α	к	0		S	Н	Α	Ν	Α	0	/	0	9	3	5	1		4
R	Ε	D	Ε	Υ	Ε	_	S	U	Ε				4	1	5	7	6	3	2	8	9
0	V	Е	R		D	0	W	N	L	0	Α	D	9	3	7	4	8	2	6	5	1
В	-	Ν	G		U	S	Α		٧	1	L	Α	9	3	'	-	0		U	5	'
Ε	L	S	Е		Р	U	G		Е	L	Α	Ν	8	6	2	1	5	9	7	4	3
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#### Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

<b>SUDOKU</b>	<b>SOLVE</b>	TIME:

- Under 13 min ......Genius 13-17 min.....Scholar
- 17-21 min ......Smart 21-25 min ......Not bad 25+ min.....Keep practising

#### **Filet Mignon** Salad

#### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 4 red peppers
- 10 oz (300 g) filet mignon 1/2 tsp (2 ml) pepper

**Metro Recipe of the Day** 

- 2 garlic cloves 1 lb (500 g) green beans,
- trimmed 4 tbsp (60 ml) balsamic
- vinegar
- 2 tsp (10 ml) extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) finely
- chopped shallot 1/4 lb (125 g) mixed salad
- greens 6 tomatoes, cut into 1/4-in

#### (0.5-cm) wedges **METHOD:**

- 1. Preheat broiler. Place red peppers in broiler pan. Cook until skins are blistered and blackened, turning frequently. Place in plastic bag, seal tightly and let steam 10 minutes. Peel away blackened skins from peppers, seed and cut into chunks.
- 2. Meanwhile, lay filet flat on cutting board and slit lengthwise three-quarters of the way through. Open

up like a book and press flat. Sprinkle with 1/4 tsp (1 ml) pepper. Cut 1 garlic clove in half and rub cut sides all over beef. Barbecue or broil beef until done to taste, about 3 minutes per side for medium. Thinly slice beef. 3. Cook beans in boiling

- water until crisp-tender, about 5 minutes. Drain and rinse immediately with cold water.
- 4. Crush remaining garlic clove. Whisk vinegar, oil, garlic, shallot and remaining pepper in small bowl. Divide mixed salad greens among 4 plates and arrange meat, pepper, beans and tomatoes on top. Drizzle with dressing and serve.

#### **SERVES 4**

#### rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on



**AVATAR VENUS** 

#### **Horoscopes**

#### **ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20**

Fate takes a hand and delayed money arrives. A man wants to run away due to lost trust. You'd be happier somewhere

#### **LIBRA SEPT 23-OCT 23**

Your patience is rewarded by a forceful person. A traveller will convince you that he's right. Friendly actions will become an issue.

## **TAURUS**

#### APRIL 21-MAY 21 Try not to be upset by guilty

feelings. Your good deeds are repaid twice over. Ask questions in order to lower your stress level.

#### **SCORPIO**

**OCT 24-NOV 22** 

A timid person is playing a waiting game. Try to have reasonable expectations of distant friends. Behave reasonably to obtain more freedom.

#### **GEMINI**

**MAY 22-JUNE 21** Give yourself a fresh start. Hurt feelings will erupt temporarily. If someone sees you as a hero, try to live up to it.

#### **SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21**

An incredible interruption comes up after lunch. An old man is excited about a mystery romance. You'll find a tempting bargain.

#### **CANCER** JUNE 22-JULY 22

A meeting has nothing to do with you. Somebody with a deceptive smile should be avoided. You can tell that something has failed.

#### **CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20**

Doors will open after an emotional predicament. Some people are in a foul mood. A notorious man requests your help, but you'll refuse.

#### **LEO JULY 23-AUG 23**

It'll be great if you can take a different approach. Bravado is important when you're avoiding a call. Stay away from scandalous actions all day.

#### **AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 18**

Hammer home your point with a very light touch. You'll enjoy someone's amusing discussion. A generous man will be your lucky charm.

#### **VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 22**

A friend may be loyal but is also indiscreet. A habitual favourbeggar regrets a previous request. A second chance can come at night.

#### **PISCES**

**FEB 19-MARCH 20** 

Coffee shop talk leads to deception in a company. A polite person is making amends. An unpleasant creature can be dealt with by a friend.

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